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BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1962

BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1962

Chairman:

ALDERMAN G. N. HAYBALL

Vice-Chairman:

ALDERMAN W. G. POSKITT

COUNCILLOR A. J. AYRES

COUNCILLOR C. S. G. MANLEY

COUNCILLOR C. M. FORREST

COUNCILLOR F. PHILLIPS

COUNCILLOR F. A. HARRIES

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. REES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1962

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M. B. , B. Ch. , B. A. O. , D. P. H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C. C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M. B. , B. S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. K. LEAN, F. P. H. I. A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

C. W. RICHARDS, A. R. S. H. , M. P. H. I. A.

R. W. L. REED, D. P. A. , M. P. H. I. A.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1962.

Tel: Bridgwater 2689

Health Department,
Albert Street,
BRIDGWATER.

July, 1963.

To:

The Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1962. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

The health of the Borough has been good during the year and there has been almost a complete absence of notifiable infectious diseases. There were no major epidemics.

Generally the vital statistics continue to be satisfactory although the rise in the illegitimate birth rate from 5.4 to 8.4 all live births is rather disturbing. However, this may be only a temporary increase, but the situation is one which will require watching.

Water shortage has again been an acute problem. The completion of the Hawkridge scheme obviously helped considerably to ameliorate the drought conditions of the summer of 1962, but nevertheless the fact remains that restrictions on the use of the domestic water supply were instituted towards the end of June and were in force for the remainder of the summer.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration which I have received and for the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officers.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	2,083
Population (census 1961)	25,582
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1962	25,930
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1962	7,762
Rateable value on 31st December, 1962	£383,500
Sum represented by 1d. rate on 31st December, 1962	£1,568

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1962

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	209	235	444
Illegitimate	21	20	41
	<u>230</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>485</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			18.70
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			8.46
Still Births			10
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births			20.20
Total live and still births			495
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total			10.31
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate			11.26
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate			nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			8.25
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)			8.25

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000

Total live and still births)

28.87

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births

nil

Deaths

Total number of deaths

291

Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births

11.22

Births

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 485 births (230 boys and 255 girls) in the Borough during 1962, being 5 births more than in 1961. Of these births 41 were illegitimate. This is 8.5% of the total live births, as compared with 5.2% in 1961.

The birth rate for any area is dependent on the composition of its population, and the Registrar General provides a comparability factor which is used to enable comparison to be made between the vital statistics of different areas. The product of the local birth rate and the comparability factor for the area is used for this purpose. Adjusted in this way the Standardised Birth Rate is 17.77 per 1,000 of the population, which is more or less what would be expected in a prosperous town with high employment rate.

Birth rates for Bridgwater and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Crude Birth Rate	15.83	17.64	17.74	18.74	18.70
Standardised Birth Rate	15.03	16.76	16.85	17.80	17.77
England and Wales	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0

Still Births

10 still births were registered during the year. 9 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate. This number gives a rate of 20.20 per 1,000 total births, as compared with the provisional National Rate for 1962, which was 18.1.

Deaths

The number of deaths registered in the Borough during 1962 was 277. Of these 56 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 70 deaths of Bridgwater residents registered outside the Borough. The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the Borough was 291 (146 males and 145 females). This was 60 deaths less than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 11.22.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The standardised death rate so obtained was 10.32 per 1,000 of the population and this compared with 11.9 for England and Wales.

Death rates for Bridgwater Borough and England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Crude Death Rate	12.09	11.82	11.26	13.70	11.22
Standardised Death Rate	10.88	10.40	10.47	12.60	10.32
England and Wales	11.7	11.6	11.5	12.0	11.9

CAUSE OF DEATH	M.	F.	TOTAL
ALL CAUSES	146	145	291
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	3	-	3
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	6	1	7
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	10	3	13
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	6	6
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	17	29
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	19	16	35
18. Coronary disease and angina	26	17	43
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	8	12
20. Other heart disease	19	24	43
21. Other circulatory disease	5	9	14
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	4	5	9
24. Bronchitis	10	11	21
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
27. Gastritis	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	16	25
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
34. All other accidents	5	2	7
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	-	1

As will be seen from the foregoing table, the principal causes of death were as follows:-

Heart disease	98
Cancer	59
Vascular lesions of nervous system	35
Pneumonia and bronchitis	30

Deaths, Age Groups 1962

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1 year	3	2	5
1 - 2 years	-	1	1
3 - 4 years	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	1	-	1
15 - 19 years	1	-	1
20 - 24 years	2	-	2
25 - 34 years	1	1	2
35 - 44 years	3	2	5
45 - 54 years	11	4	15
55 - 59 years	12	8	20
60 - 64 years	18	14	32
65 - 69 years	22	11	33
70 - 74 years	17	18	35
75 - 79 years	19	20	39
80 - 84 years	17	31	48
85 and over	19	33	52
	146	145	291

Cancer Mortality

The number of deaths from cancer of Bridgwater residents was 59 (males 28, females 31), as compared with 65 in 1961. They constituted 20.3% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 59 cases:-

Localisation	Number of deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1961
Stomach	6	1	7	11
Lungs	10	3	13	11
Breast	-	6	6	10
Uterus	-	4	4	3
Other and unspecified organs	12	17	29	30
Total	28	31	59	65

The ages at which deaths from lung cancer occurred during the last five years is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	Over 65	Total
1958	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	13
1959	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	8
1960	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	7
1961	-	-	-	-	3	3	5	11
1962	-	-	-	1	1	7	4	13

Infantile Mortality

5 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 10.31, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 21.4.

There were 4 deaths of infants during the first four weeks of life, as compared with 3 during the previous year.

The following table shows the causes of the infant deaths in detail:-

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Asphyxia neonatorum	1	-	-	-	1
Infantacide	-	-	1	-	1
Bronchopneumonia	1	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	1
Pulmonary hæmorrhage	1	-	-	-	1
Total	4	-	1	-	5

Deaths from Heart Disease

Of the 291 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 3 (males 49, females 49). It represented 37.1% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.8 per 1,000 of the population.

Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality

There were 11 deaths from these diseases, as against 25 in 1961. The mortality rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.42.

Suicide

There were no deaths from suicide during 1962, as compared with 3 in 1961.

Inquests

21 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year. Of these 9 were upon residents of the town.

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Road accidents	1	1	2
Accidents in the home	1	-	1
Misadventure	1	-	1
Natural causes	1	-	1
Drowning	2	-	2
Accidents at work	1	-	1
Infanticide	1	-	1
Total	8	1	9

Population

The estimated population of the Borough as at June, 1962, was 25, 930 which was an increase of 350 over the previous year. The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 194 and therefore, 156 immigrated to the town during the year.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population increase</u>	<u>Natural increase</u>	<u>Change due to emigration or immigration</u>
1951	450	112	- 562
1952	1, 160	92	+ 1, 068
1953	200	148	+ 52
1954	160	127	+ 33
1955	200	101	+ 99
1956	240	116	+ 124
1957	340	115	+ 225
1958	410	93	+ 317
1959	400	147	+ 253
1960	290	166	+ 124
1961	nil	129	- 129
1962	350	194	+ 156

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examination carried out during the year include: -

Water samples	51
Ice cream samples	72

Hospitals

The Ministry of Health Hospital Plan for England and Wales indicated that all hospital facilities other than a geriatric unit would be withdrawn from Bridgwater. The united protests of the many interested bodies both in and around the town produced results and it has now been intimated that a new maternity unit would be provided in Bridgwater and that outpatient facilities at Bridgwater General hospital would be improved and that a casualty department would be retained. This is heartening news, but it is still very far short of what was at one time hoped for and the situation is one which will need to be watched carefully in the future.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are :-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Lodge	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Doctors' ante-natal clinics are held three times a week at the Mary Stanley Nursing Home and are staffed by general practitioners who are interested in maternity work. The clinics help to cement the relationship between patient, midwife and doctor and are particularly valuable.

The usual clinics held at the Health Centre on the first Monday and the third Wednesday of the month for taking blood samples from expectant mothers for determination of Rhesus Factor, blood groupings, etc. are continued as heretofore. During 1962, 829 persons attended.

Relaxation Classes

These classes which have become very popular are attended by about 15 expectant mothers at a time, and are held twice weekly at the Health Centre. Following short talks on "Parentcraft" by Doctor, Health Visitor or Midwife, relaxation instruction is given by a physiotherapist.

Mothers' Club

This club, which meets at the Health Centre, has a membership of over 60 mothers. The average attendance at each weekly meeting is 35 - 40. After listening to a speaker or seeing an educational film, the mothers enjoy a social evening together. The club has proved most popular with the mothers for whom it has been a most welcome change from domestic chores.

The mothers also help the Infant Welfare Clinic by taking charge of the play room during infant welfare sessions.

Infant Welfare Clinics

Infant Welfare Clinics are held as follows: -

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Tuesday, 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. Friday, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
The Community Centre, Bath Road Estate.	Thursday, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
Greenfields, Hamp Estate.	2nd and 4th Tuesday in months, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Following the collapse of the old Community Centre at the Sydenham Estate during last winter, the infant welfare clinic transferred temporarily to St. Francis Church Hall, with the kind permission of the Reverend Father Taylor to whom we are extremely grateful. However, we look forward to the completion of the new Community Centre and to transferring the clinic to permanent quarters.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics

The Health Centre, Mount Street	Friday, 11.00 a.m.
The Community Centre, Bath Road Estate. (St. Francis Church Hall temporarily)	A special clinic is now held on the first Friday in each month at 10.00 a.m.
Greenfields, Hamp Estate	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

Vaccination against Smallpox

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Friday, by appointment
-------------------------------------	------------------------

Polio Immunisation Clinics

The Health Centre, Mount Street	Friday, 11.00 a.m.
The Community Centre, Bath Road Estate. (St. Francis Church Hall temporarily)	The first Friday in each month at 10.00 a.m.

School Clinic.

A school medical officer attends a school clinic each Monday morning from 10.00 a.m. at the Health Centre, Mount Street, and is available to advise parents on any health matters concerning their children. Many parents avail themselves of this additional opportunity to discuss their children's health with the school doctor.

School nurses attend minor ailments clinics at the Health Centre, from 9.00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Minor ailment clinics are also held at Hamp Junior School and Bath Road Junior School on Tuesday, and Thursday at 9.30 a.m. This arrangement of holding nurses' clinics in the more distant schools has much to commend it when adequate facilities are available.

Other clinics held at the Health Centre, Mount Street include:-

Chest Clinic	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Monday a.m.
Child Guidance Clinic	Tuesday a.m.
Breathing Exercises Clinic	Wednesday p.m.
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	Tuesday and Friday p.m.
Speech Therapy Clinic	Monday and Friday all day

Day Nursery

This nursery, administered by the County Council, is available for children aged 6 months to 5 years. A list of priorities has been drawn up by the Council and a local admission committee decides which children should be admitted. Admission is granted mainly on grounds of economic difficulty or unsatisfactory housing conditions. Accommodation is available for 25 children. The average daily attendance during 1962 was 20 children.

Extension of the Internal Relief Road involved the demolition of the old nursery, but the County Council have approved the building of a new nursery at Albert Street and work has commenced on the new building.

Ambulance Service

An Ambulance and Hospital Car Service is provided by the County Council through the agency of Voluntary Organisations. The local headquarters is at 7, West Street, Bridgwater. Ambulances are controlled by radio communication from a central control at Taunton and a satisfactory service is provided. Redevelopment of the West Street area will involve the demolition of the present ambulance station. The new ambulance station at Albert Street is almost completed and will soon be operational.

Home Help Service

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street.

Once again the Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 259 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of cases:-

Maternity	22
Old age and infirmity	173
Tuberculosis	4
Chronic sick	27
Post operation	3
Emergency illness	20
Other cases	10

In many cases assisted, the patient or other members of the family would have been unable to remain at home, were it not for the Home Help Service.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The number of Home Helps at 31.12.62 was as follows:-

Full time	11
Part time	28

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Borough Mortuary

40 post mortem examinations were carried out at the Borough mortuary during 1962. This compares with 49 in the previous year.

Proposed extension of the Clare Street car park will involve demolition of the existing mortuary. The present building has served its purpose but it falls short of modern standards and alteration and renovation would prove expensive. Its passing will not therefore be regretted. Agreement has been reached between the Bridgwater Borough Council, the Rural District Council and the Hospital Area Management Committee whereby the hospital mortuary will be enlarged and modernised and will be made available for use by all three authorities.

Welfare of Old People

The various organisations to which reference was made in previous reports have continued to play an important part in contributing to the welfare of old people. The inclusion of chiropody treatment as part of the National Health Service has helped to fill a great need and has been much appreciated by the old people. The chiropody scheme operated by the County Council has proved adequate to meet the existing need and therefore the scheme which was operated for many years by the Borough of Bridgwater Association for the Welfare of Old People has been discontinued.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Borough during 1962. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	Age unknown	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Measles	1				3	2								6	
Scarlet Fever						4		1						5	1
Whooping cough		1	1		2	4		1						9	
Pneumonia												1		1	
Erysipelas												2		2	
Food poisoning		1						1		1	1			4	
Puerperal pyrexia										1			1	2	
TOTAL	1	2	1		5	10		3		2	1	3	1	29	1

During the previous year 699 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

No cases were notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The following tables show the number of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections or three doses of Oral vaccine) and the number of persons who received reinforcements during 1962.

Children born 1962		Children born 1943-61		Young persons born 1933-42		Persons under 40 yrs. of age & Priority Groups	
Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral
-	39	90	233	9	16	25	41
Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a third reinforcing injection		Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a fourth reinforcing injection		Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a reinforcing dose of Oral vaccine following two Salk injections		Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a dose of Oral vaccine after three Salk injections	
456		49		254		89	

The safety and efficacy of the oral poliomyelitis vaccine has been established and it is now in universal use. It is particularly appreciated by the mothers of young infants who are not now exposed to so many injections during the period when they are being immunised against the various infectious diseases.

Measles

6 cases of measles were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever

5 cases were notified

Tuberculosis

11 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified in 1962 as compared with 14 in 1961. One new case of non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified.

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31. 12. 62	130	10
Number of new cases during the year	11	1
Number of deaths during the year	3	-

The following table shows the sex and age groups of cases notified during the year:-

Age	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & Over	Age Unknown	Total
Male	-	-	-	1	5	2	1	9
Female	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3

Prevention of Tuberculosis - Mass Radiography.

A Mass Radiography Unit visited Bridgwater from 9th July to 26th July and from 27th August to 7th September. A fully mobile unit was available and was stationed at strategic points on the housing estates on the outskirts of the town in addition to visits to local factories and sessions at the Health Centre. A total of 6, 478 persons (3,443 male, 3, 035 female) attended for examination.

38 abnormalities (23 male, 15 female) were detected. The abnormalities were extremely varied and ranged from acute conditions, mainly non-tuberculous, requiring treatment or active supervision, to old standing healed conditions which left a scar or other such evidence.

Food Poisoning

4 cases were notified. Only one household was affected and the causative agent was not identified.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified. During the year 447 children under the age of 5 years and 68 children between the ages of 5 - 15 years were immunised against diphtheria, giving a total of 515.

Tetanus Vaccination

Tetanus vaccination is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December, 1962, was as follows:-

Children born in the years:-							
1962	61	60	59	58	53-57	48-52	Total
46	176	48	12	4	35	-	321

Vaccination against Smallpox

Outbreaks of smallpox in other parts of the country led to a very considerable demand for vaccination by members of the public. As far as possible vaccination was restricted to persons whose work might bring them in contact with cases, persons having contact with infected areas and persons travelling abroad. Most of the vaccinations carried out were not recorded, but nevertheless the number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) and for whom records are available was as follows:-

Under 1		1		2 - 4		5 - 14		15 or over		Totals	
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
369	-	114	-	290	24	935	250	1, 140	1, 011	2, 848	1, 285

P = Primary vaccination

R = Revaccination

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Refuse disposal is by Controlled Tipping and use is made of many clayspits surrounding the town, as tipping sites. The tip at present in use is situated undully close to a residential area, and the strictest control over tipping technique is essential if nuisance is to be avoided.

Disinfection

The disinfection centre is working satisfactorily and 6 disinfections were carried out during the year.

Water Supplies

Regular bacteriological examination of existing supplies have been made of both the raw water and the water going into supply.

Results were as follows:-

Ashford Reservoir

Untreated water. Six samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination.

Water after treatment. Twelve samples were examined and all gave excellent results

Durleigh Reservoir

Untreated water. Six samples were examined, all of which showed evidence of contamination.

Water after treatment. Twelve samples were examined. All gave excellent results

Routine chemical analysis of the Durleigh and Ashford supplies showed moderately hard waters containing some organic pollution. A detailed report of the Ashford supply was as follows:-

Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water.

Received on 22nd January, 1962.

Labelled: Raw Water. Ashford Reservoir (Spaxton Stream) Direct dipping Untreated.

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Fairly turbid
Reaction	Slightly alkaline
pH	7.9
Free Carbon Dioxide	nil
Total Solids	270.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	135.0
Carbonate Hardness "	135.0
Non-carbonate " "	30.0
Total Hardness	165.0
Chloride (as Cl)	19.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.114
Albuminoid " "	0.120
Nitrate " "	2.4
Nitrite " "	Trace
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C.	1.7
Sediment	Trace
Iron (Total)	0.3
Iron (in solution)	Nil

Swimming Baths

Treatment of the water in the swimming baths is regularly supervised. Modern plant enables the water to be turned over every six hours and at the same time to be filtered and purified. Bacteriological examination of the water was carried out on 17 occasions and all of these samples reached the standard of purity required for domestic drinking water supplies.

The provision of a third swimming bath at the Lido has done much to relieve overcrowding of the other baths and particularly the congestion at the shallow ends of the existing bath.

Sewage Disposal

The Council, in conjunction with Messrs. British Cellophane Ltd. have undertaken a scheme to improve conditions at the outfall of the Council's sewer taking acid effluent from the Cellophane factory. The scheme provides for the discharge of effluent into the River Parrett below low water level and should therefore help considerably to reduce or eliminate the unpleasant smells which so frequently arise from the existing discharge which is at a level well above low water mark.

Work on renewing the Eastover trunk sewer continued slowly during the year.

Housing

Number of permanent dwellings in Borough 7, 948

Number of permanent dwellings owned by
Local Authority 3, 273

Number of houses demolished or closed during
the year as a result of formal or informal
action. 27

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection	
	For Slum Clearance	For Other purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other purposes
Local Authority	34 flats	30 houses 8 maisonnettes	16	-
Private Enterprise	-	76	-	65

Advantage has also been taken of Improvement Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949-54, but it has been on a small scale. 9 applications in respect of 9 dwellings were received.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	11	9	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	146	179	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	10	-	-
Total	167	198	3	-

	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases which prosecutions were instructed
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Insp.	By H. M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	-			
Overcrowding (S. 2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	2			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	8	1		
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
Total	12	12	1		

	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-whole-some premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making etc. apparel) Cleaning and) Washing	52					

STAFF EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations carried out by the Department in connection with new appointments to the Council's staff, and in connection with the Superannuation Scheme and the Workmen's Sickness Benefit Regulations, were as follows:-

<u>Department</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Town Clerk	3	2	5
Borough Engineer	40	-	40
Borough Treasurer	-	1	1
Housing	3	2	5
Health	-	-	-
	46	5	51

To: -

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

Housing

During the year numerous complaints were received and dealt with under the Public Health or Housing Acts.

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of complaints received from people living in unsatisfactory housing conditions and this can be credited to the work carried out in the demolition of insanitary houses during the post-war period.

54 preliminary notices and 2 statutory notices were served. In no case was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

63 houses were inspected for the purpose of having defects remedied whilst 19 houses were systematically inspected under the Housing Regulations. Since the end of the year two streets have been surveyed with a view to bringing the whole of the properties up to modern requirements by the granting of Improvement Grants. It was found that elderly owner-occupiers were adverse to carrying out improvements because of their age and other reasons given by owners were insufficient capital available and just not interested. It is hoped by intensified propaganda to improve the properties by voluntary action or else to purchase the houses for improvement by the Corporation. Further properties in the West Street Redevelopment Area were purchased for the purpose of demolition and with the provision of new houses, flats and a shopping centre this area has become a very pleasing feature of the town.

During the year 24 houses were demolished or closed as the result of formal or informal action.

The inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants on the Housing Waiting List still entails a considerable amount of work.

The schedule at the end of the report gives the amount of repair work carried out under notice to existing houses.

The number of houses found to be verminous was 5 as compared with 10 in 1961.

Only one case of overcrowding was found during the year, but five existing cases were abated.

There have been two applications for Certificates of Disrepair during the year.

The following table gives the amount of work carried out under the Act since it came into force.

No. of applications received	62
No. of houses inspected	62
Form J's sent to owners	62
Form K's received from owners	36
Repairs completed	53
Repairs in hand	3
Houses demolished	3
Applications withdrawn - Tenants purchased House.	3
Certificates of Disrepair issued	25
Certificates of Disrepair revoked	20

Infectious Diseases

Enquiries are made in cases of notifiable disease and disinfection is carried out free of cost. In other cases a charge is made. The disinfecting plant at Market Street is functioning satisfactorily.

Food

The inspection of food and the premises in which it is prepared for sale or sold is one of the most important duties of the Department.

- (i) The number of food premises, other than stalls, in the Borough is 261, made up as shown in the following categories. Each food business is classified by its main trade, due to the diversity of foodstuffs now sold in many of the shops.

Grocers (including wholesalers)	77
Confectioners (Sweetmeats)	26
Bakers	15
Licensed Premises	60
Greengrocers (including wholesalers)	10
Fishmongers	5
Fried Fish Shops	9
Restaurants, Unlicensed Hotels, & Kiosks	17
Canteens	12
Cooked Meats etc.	4
Butchers	26
Stalls (including St. Matthews Fair)	82

- (ii) The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is 120.

Ice Cream Premises	95
Potted, Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Foods	25
The number of firms retailing milk in the Borough is	18

All milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

(iii) The number of inspections of registered food premises is given in the summary at the end of the report.

(iv) In connection with the visits to food premises the following foods were condemned.

Beef	4 cwt. 73½ lbs.
Bacon	1 cwt. 92¾ lbs
Wet Fish	88½ lbs
Canned Fish	106 tins
Canned Meat	412 tins
Canned Fruit	1, 242 tins
Canned Vegetables	476 tins
Canned Soup	54 tins
Canned Milk	57 tins
Jam	20 tins & jars
Rice	½ cwt.
Cheese	45 lbs
Lemon	15 cwt.
Other Foods	4 cwt. 14½ lbs.

The food condemned was disposed of at the Corporation Refuse Tip.

(v) No special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been necessary.

(vi) Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

The number of premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream is as follows:-

Registered for manufacture and sale	0
Registered for sale	95

No ice-cream is now manufactured in the Borough and practically the whole of the ice-cream retailed is wrapped.

78 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and these were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	69
" 2	6
" 3	2
" 4	1

These results are good, apart from one batch of samples, representative of all the main manufacturers, which produced poor results. Similar samples were submitted immediately for examination and in every case the results were satisfactory.

(vii) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Further inspections of premises under the above Regulations has occupied a great deal of time. Shopkeepers have been found to be most co-operative and now show considerable interest in the production and sale of food under hygienic conditions. The serving of notices requiring improvements is now being superceded by verbal requests, which are producing the same results.

Meat Inspection

All slaughtering in the Borough is carried out in a privately owned Slaughterhouse at the Cattle Market.

Once again there was a substantial increase in the number of animals killed and inspected, which rose from 34,128 in 1961 to 45,377 in 1962. One hundred per cent inspection was maintained, and this necessitated a considerable amount of duty on Saturdays and Sundays as well as evenings.

The following table gives details of the carcasses inspected, carcasses or parts condemned, the causes of condemnation and the weight of meat condemned.

Carcasses Inspected.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	1,178	169	10,265	21,446	12,319 ⁺	45,377
Number Examined	1,178	169	10,265	21,446	12,319	45,377

⁺includes 166 sows and 20 boars.

In addition to the foregoing one goat was killed and inspected during the year, but no horses were killed.

Once again the general quality of the meat inspected was exceptionally good and the great majority of carcasses rejected were from animals slaughtered for emergency reasons.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle Exc. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>All diseases except T. B. & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned	2	5	54	46	38	145
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	81	72	51	404	1,314	1,922
% of the No. inspected affected with diseases other than T. B. or cysticerci	7.1	45.6	1.0	2.1	10.9	4.6
<u>T. B. only</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	-	-	136	138
% of the No. inspected affected with T. B.	0.1	0.6	-	-	1.1	0.3
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	-	-	10
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	-	-	-	-	10
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Cattle exc. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>Weight of meat condemned</u> <u>(in lbs.) for</u>						
(a) Tuberculosis	29	35	-	-	1,703	1,766
(b) Cysticercosis	270	-	-	-	-	270
(c) Other	2,288	4,339	2,928	3,031	8,299	20,885
Total (in lbs.) condemned	2,587	4,374	2,928	3,031	10,001	22,921

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Animals slaughtered for emergency reasons	19	27	51	111	65	273

At the request of the Divisional Veterinary Officer a special examination for atrophic rhinitis was effected on all the condemned pigs' heads, but evidence of this disease was not found.

Conditions Rendering Carcase Meat and Organs Unfit for Human Consumption

Disease	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Abscesses	304	53	27	12	194
Actinobacillosis	69	-	-	-	-
Actinomycosis	125	66	-	-	-
Arthritis	-	-	-	-	22
Ascariasis (Milk Spots)	--	-	-	-	813
Bruising	752(1)	1,434(1)	91(1)	298(5)	289
Cirrhosis	36	31	14	9	203
Coccidiosis	-	-	-	-	10
Congestion	25	-	5	-	19
Contamination	-	-	-	-	185
C. Bovis	270	-	-	-	-
C. Ovis	-	-	-	8	-
C. Tenuicollis	-	-	-	35	-
Cystic	-	-	-	-	4
Decomposition	-	-	48(1)	64(1)	150(1)
Echinococcus Cysts	-	-	-	22	-
Emaciation (Pathological)	-	280(1)	-	433(10)	195(3)
Emphysema	-	16	-	-	-
Fasciolosis	337	392	-	113	-
Fatty Change	-	-	-	23	-
Fever (Pyrexia)	-	-	454(10)	342(6)	894(12)
Gangrene	-	377(1)	-	-	-
Gangrenous Pneumonia	-	-	59(1)	-	-
Icterus (Jaundice)	-	-	35(1)	-	136(2)
Immaturity	-	-	68(3)	-	18(1)
Imperfect Bleeding	-	-	-	138(2)	-
Inflammatory Conditions	26	2	15	46	840
Mastitis, acute septic	-	-	-	55(1)	-
Mastitis, localised	-	178	-	-	92
Melanosis	-	-	4	2	9
Moribund	372(1)	-	749(15)	457(7)	366(5)
Necrosis	-	-	3	2	4
Nephritis incl. "white spot" (calves)	-	22	13	-	19
Oedema	-	658(1)	88(2)	379(10)	68(1)
Parasitical Conditions	-	-	-	365	12
Pericarditis	7	-	2	2	59
Periocarditis, acute septic	-	-	-	47(1)	-
Peritonitis, acute septic	-	497(1)	-	-	253(1)
Pleurisy	56	-	-	14	233
Pleurisy, acute septic	-	-	-	25(1)	258(3)
Pneumonia	25	20	45	46	1,893
Pneumonia, acute septic	-	-	144(2)	35(1)	33(1)
Pyæmia, including Joint-ill	-	-	889(15)	-	-
Sarcoptic mange	-	-	-	-	12
Septic Omphalophlebitis	-	-	49(1)	-	-
Septicæmia	-	-	79(1)	-	-
Sepsis	-	40	-	5	11
Strongylosis	-	-	-	23	-

Disease	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Swine Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	991(8)
Telangieotasis	142	259	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	27(1)	-
Tuberculosis	29	35	-	-	1,702(1)
Tumours	12	14	-	4	1
Uraemia	-	-	47(1)	-	-
Urticaria	-	-	-	-	3
	2,587	4,374	2,928	3,031	10,001

(Weight in lbs)

The figures in brackets indicate the number of cases where the whole of the carcasses and their organs were condemned.

Total weight of meat and offals condemned 10 Tons, 4 cwt. 2 qrs. 17 lbs.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

Observation is kept on all factory chimneys and during the year eight smoke nuisances were abated by the following methods:-

1. Installation of a fan
2. New nozzle fitted to oil burner
3. Improved firing methods in two cases
4. Use of more suitable fuel
5. Automatic stokers provided in two cases
6. Workshop removed to more suitable site

In addition a nuisance from bonfires at a factory was also abated.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Complaints are now being received of noise emission from several of the industrial undertakings in the Borough. These complaints are difficult to deal with inasmuch as the complainants are usually satisfied with nothing less than the total suppression of the noise.

In one case the nuisance complained of has been abated and in the other cases a decrease in the volume of the sound obtained.

Swimming Baths

Samples of water in the baths at the Broadway Lido were sent for bacteriological examination regularly throughout the season. Seventeen samples were examined and all were satisfactory.

Caravans

There are 3 licensed caravan sites in the Borough. In addition the Corporation owns a Municipal Caravan Site at Colley Lane.

Rats and Mice Destruction

Two fully trained Rodent Operators are employed to carry out the destruction of rats and mice. The sewers were treated half-yearly and the refuse tip on 4 occasions. The number of complaints received of rat and mouse infestation was 304. The following table sets out details of the work carried out during the year.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	Business & Indus. Prem.	Total
1. Number of properties inspected by the L. A. during 1962 as a result of					
(a) Notification	(a) 27	224	1	43	295
(b) Survey or otherwise	(b) 38	4,168	16	295	4,517
2. Total inspections carried out including re-inspection	78	5,805	20	387	6,290
3. Number of properties inspected (see Sec. 1) which were found to be infested with rats	Major 6 Minor 28	4 222	1 2	3 27	14 279
4. Number of properties inspected (see Sec. 1) which were found to be infested with mice	Major 1 Minor -	2 74	- -	2 23	5 97
5. Number of properties treated by L. A. (see Sec. 3 & 4)	35	275	1	56	367

Staff

There have been no staff changes during the year.

Summary

Inspections made during the year

General Sanitation

Water Supply	64
Drainage	546
Stable and Piggeries	57
Factories	162
Outworkers	113
Rodent Control	228
Shops	208
Caravan Sites	69
Swimming Baths	9
Atmospheric Pollution	208
Pet Shops	4
Licensed Premises	10
Noise Nuisances	57
Miscellaneous	532

Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	63
Visits paid to the above houses	189
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	19
Visits paid to the above houses	71
Houses inspected under the Rent Act	1
Visits paid under the Rent Act	12
Houses inspected during the Housing Survey	91
Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding	12
Visits paid to the above houses	16
Verminous premises inspected	5
Visits paid to the above premises	14
Miscellaneous	267

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	15
Visits re disinfection	4
Miscellaneous	8
Food Poisoning Enquiries	6

Meat and Food Inspection

Visits to Slaughterhouses	571
Visits to Shops and Stalls	23
Visits to Butchers	63
Visits to Confectioners	29
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	13
Visits to Grocers	169

Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	8
Visits to Bakers and Confectioners	12
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	13
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	9
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	87
Visits for Ice-Cream Samples	78
Visits to Restaurants and Catering Establishments	63
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	34
Visits to Licensed Premises	19
Visits to Street Vendors	3
Visits to Market Stalls	198
Miscellaneous	85

Explosives

Visits in connection with Explosives	61
Visits in connection with Petroleum Spirit	70

Work Done

Public Health and Housing

Choked drains and sewers cleared	30
Drains relaid	3
Drains or sewers repaired	27
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	14
Defective ceilings repaired	8
Defective chimneys repaired	2
Defective doors repaired	1
Defective eavesgutters and downpipes repaired	6
Defective firegrates and ranges repaired	1
Defective floors repaired	1
Defective flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	3
Defective wall plastering repaired	5
Defective roofs repaired	20
Defective staircases repaired	1
Defective walls repaired	3
Defective water closets repaired or renewed	15
Defective windows repaired or renewed	13
Defective yard paving	4
Dampness remedied	7
Flushing cisterns provided	1
Handrails provided	1
Sashcord renewed	4
Smoke nuisances abated	8
Verminous premises cleansed	3
Number of disinfestations from rats or mice	394
Accumulations removed	6
Other nuisances abated	1

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Protection against contamination provided 2

Washing - Food and Equipment

Sinks provided or renewed 4

Cold water supply provided 2

Hot water supply provided 3

Clean cloths provided 11

Bowls provided in lieu of sinks 3

Washing - Hands

Washbasins provided or renewed 7

Cold water supply provided 4

Hot water supply provided 5

Towels provided 6

Nailbrushes provided 9

W. C. Compartments

Artificial lighting provided 2

Ventilation provided 3

Notice to wash hands provided 16

Decorated 7

W. C. pans renewed 1

W. C. compartments cleansed 6

Intervening ventilated space provided 1

Food Rooms

Walls repaired 4

Walls cleansed 22

Floors repaired 3

Ceilings repaired 4

Ceilings cleansed 12

S. T. Bins provided 1

Use of Detergents commenced 7

First Aid Kit provided 14

Impervious surfaces provided 5

Clothing accommodation provided 8

Drainage repaired 3

Dustbins cleansed 2

Accumulations removed 2

Public Health Act, Sec. 89

Urinals cleansed and re-decorated 7

W. C. compartments cleansed and re-decorated 6

Screening to W. C. compartment provided 2

New toilet accommodation provided 2

Urinals modernised 1

Factories Acts

Artificial lighting provided to W. Cs	2
Sanitary conveniences cleansed	2
Sanitary conveniences provided	2
Sanitary conveniences repaired	4
Intervening ventilated space provided	3
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	2

Shops Act, 1950

Forms exhibited	115
Seating provided for female assistants	2
Additional Heating provided	3
W. C. compartments cleansed	4
Washbasins repaired or renewed	1
Lighting to W. C. compartments provided	3
Provision of hot water to washing facilities	2
W. C. compartments repaired	3
Additional W. C. compartment provided.	1

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Removal of Harbourage	5
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I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. K. LEAN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

